

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 9, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

A "Petition for Extension of Time" for extending the due date for responding to the Office Action by two months and a credit card payment form to cover the fee payment (\$450.00) for the extension are filed with this Amendment. The credit card payment form additionally covers the fee payment (\$800.00) for the four independent claims in excess of the highest number of independent claims paid for previously. Authorization is granted to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing **Attorney Docket No. 108075-00120**, for any additional fees necessary for entry of this Amendment.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-8 and 10 are allowed. In addition, Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended and new independent claims 12-15 have been added. Applicant submits that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the Specification and the drawings, as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

The title of the invention stands objected to for an informality. The title has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection, and it is submitted that the title, as amended, complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(a). The objection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

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The Specification stands objected to for an informality. The Specification has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection. The objection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner noted that the relationship between Figs. 1 and 2 is not clear. The objections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

With respect to the drawings, Fig. 1 shows a data transfer system according to a first embodiment of the present invention in which a semiconductor device 11 is connected to one external device 13a, and Fig. 2 shows a data transfer system in which the semiconductor device 11 is connected to another external device 13b. Accordingly, the inputs of converters 17 and 18 of the semiconductor device 11 are selectively connected to the circuits 13a and 13b, and the converters 17 and 18 in Fig. 1 are the same as the level converters 17 and 18 in Fig. 2. Furthermore, the level converters 17 and 18 are selectively activated by a detection circuit 19 in accordance with a center amplitude level of the input signal (see Specification, page 7, ls. 29-33). Therefore, Applicant submits that it is not necessary to amend Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings in view of the Specification. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to because of an informality. Claim 1 has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection, and it is submitted that claim 1, as amended, is patentable and in condition for allowance. The objection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended in response to the Examiner's rejections, and it is submitted that the claims, as amended, are patentable and in condition for allowance. The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Henry patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,040,718). In making the rejection, the Examiner noted that in Fig. 2 "the recited 'detection circuit' reads on circuit 120; and the recited 'selection circuit' reads on circuit 130." The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 9, as amended, recites a semiconductor device for receiving input signals each having a different center amplitude level, the semiconductor device comprising a detection circuit for detecting a center amplitude level of each of the input signals to generate a control signal; and a plurality of conversion circuits connected to the detection circuit for converting each of the input signals to a signal having a corresponding certain level, wherein one of the plurality of conversion circuits is selected in accordance with the control signal. It is respectfully submitted that the Henry patent does not disclose or suggest the semiconductor device, as claimed in the present invention.

Specifically, the Henry patent does not disclose a plurality of conversion circuits each converting an input signal to a signal suitable for a circuit (e.g., an internal circuit) based on a detected center amplitude level of the input signal. Rather, with reference to Fig. 2, the Henry patent merely discloses that a median reference voltage is selected from among three reference voltages VR_A , VR_B and VR_C by simultaneously comparing the three reference voltages with one another using three comparators. The decode logic block 120 represents the logic implementation of a truth table for indicating the media reference voltage. For each valid

combination of its input signals Q1, Q2 and Q3, logic block 120 drives only one of its output signals A, B and C high. The multiplexer (MUX) 130 is a conventional three-to-one MUX which provides one of three reference voltages at its output terminal 300 depending upon which of the three transistors T1, T2 and T3 is turned on by input signals A, B and C. Such does not disclose the plurality of conversion circuits connected to the detection circuit for converting each of the input signals to a signal having a corresponding certain level, wherein one of the plurality of conversion circuits is selected in accordance with the control signal. Accordingly, the Henry patent fails to disclose or suggest the semiconductor device, as claimed

Based upon the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element recited within independent claim 9 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Henry patent, and therefore patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

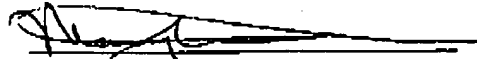
Support for the entry of new claims 12-15 may be found in the Specification at page 14, l. 32, through page 16, l. 12. For the same reasons that independent claims 1, 9, 10 and 11 are patentable and in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 12-15 are also patentable over the Henry patent and in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Henry patent does not disclose a semiconductor device for receiving an input signal having a center amplitude level, the semiconductor device comprising the input circuit and the detection circuit as claimed in the present invention. Entry of new claims 12-15 is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned

counsel at the telephone number, indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Dated: January 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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